WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A component platform for development, deployment, management evolution and execution of components in a component-based software development system, the platform comprising:

a component assembler for generating components and data associated therewith and for storing the components and associated data in a component repository;

a component transporter for distributing the components; and

a component launcher for executing the components responsive to the associated data; and

a component browser for managing components and their associated data stored within a component repository.

2. The platform of claim 1, wherein the associated data is stored in the component repository according to a predetermined structure accessible by external software components.

3. The platform of claim 1, wherein the associated data is stored in a platform and application-independent format.

4. The platform of claim 1, wherein the associated data includes at least one of component versions, type information, structural descriptions and dependency relationships.

5. The platform of claim 1, wherein the component assembler is for executing install scripts when storing the components in the component repository.

6. The platform of claim 1, wherein the component assembler is for executing uninstall scripts when removing the component from the component repository.

7. The platform of claim 1, wherein the component assembler generates the components based on at least one of a template and a wizard.

8. The platform of claim 1, further comprising a component runtime for managing execution of the components.

9. The platform of claim 1, further comprising a logging component for writing log messages from components and their centralized collection.

10. The platform of claim 1, further comprising a caching component for caching at least one of components and any other identifiable artifact.

11. The platform of claim 1, further comprising a workflow component for separating application logic from process logic within the platform.

12. The platform of claim 1, further comprising a security component for managing authentication and authorization within the platform.

13. A messaging platform for a component-based software system, the platform comprising:

a connection assembler for at least one of creating, managing and manipulating a first messaging platform connection;

a protocol management framework for implementation of a predetermined transport protocol over the first connection;

a schema generator for, responsive to a request for service received over a second messaging platform connection, creating a document according to a predetermined format, the document containing information to be provided to another system over the first connection;

an encoding component for converting a document in the predetermined format into a first encoded object that can be understood and used by the another system, the first encoded object being encoded according to a default encoding protocol; and

a translation component for encoding a document in the predetermined format into a second encoded object that can be understood and used by the another system, the second encoded object being encoded according to an encoding protocol different from the default encoding protocol.

14. The platform of claim 13, wherein:

the information is provided by a service component; and

the request for service is in a form not understandable by the service component.

15. The platform of claim 13, wherein the service request is in a platform and application-independent format.

16. The platform of claim 15, wherein the service request is in an Extensible Markup Language format.

17. The platform of claim 13, further comprising a lookup service for determining a service component to handle the service request.

18. The platform of claim 17, wherein the lookup service determines the service component to handle the service request based on information associated with the service component.

19. The platform of claim 13, wherein the protocol management framework implements HTTP for transport.

20. The platform of claim 13, wherein the default protocol is SOAP.